

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Hai Van Tran, 35, of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 90 months in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Judge Crabb ordered that Hai Van Tran's federal sentence be followed by a four-year period of supervised release. Van Tran, a native of Vietnam, is subject to being deported once he has completed his federal sentence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, working in conjunction with state and local law enforcement, executed a search warrant at Van Tran's residence in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on February 10, 2006, and located a firearm, more than \$120,000 in United States currency, and drug-related paraphernalia, including a money-counting machine. Van Tran pleaded guilty to the conspiracy on April 3, 2007. In addition to forfeiting the currency, the U. S. Attorney's office forfeited Van Tran's residence.

Chief Judge Crabb found that the conspiracy involved between 400 and 700 kilograms of marijuana. Judge Crabb also enhanced Van Tran's sentence for being an organizer of a drug activity that involved five or more participants.

The charges against Van Tran were the result of an investigation led by agents of the Madison office of the FBI, and included the Cottage Grove Police Department, the Everest Metro Wisconsin Police Department, the State of Wisconsin, Division of Criminal Investigation, as well as Newark and New Orleans Divisions of the FBI and the FBI's Washington field office. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Anderson.

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